



DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

SBA Disaster Assistance Area 3 – 14925 Kingsport Road – Ft. Worth, TX 76155

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Contact: Michael Lampton

Jim Atkins

Phone: (817) 868-2300

SBA Economic Injury Loans Available

Business owners urged to apply

FORT WORTH, TX -- Businesses in some Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska, and Oklahoma counties can now apply for low interest Economic Injury Disaster Loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). These loans are available to help businesses meet normal operating expenses that cannot be met due to the effects of a disaster. Freezing conditions that occurred April 7 through May 15, 2004; and drought that occurred January 1, 2004, and continuing, caused many farmers and ranchers to experience reduced incomes which may have had an adverse economic effect on businesses depending upon these producers. Farmers and ranchers are not eligible for this loan program but may be eligible for disaster assistance through other Federal agencies. However, nurseries that are victims of drought disasters can apply. Businesses in the following counties are eligible to apply:

Kansas:

Barton	Graham	Lincoln	Phillips	Smith
Cheyenne	Grant	Logan	Rawlins	Stanton
Cloud	Gray	Meade	Republic	Stevens
Decatur	Greeley	Mitchell	Rooks	Thomas
Edwards	Hamilton	Morton	Rush	Trego
Ellis	Haskell	Ness	Russell	Wallace
Ellsworth	Hodgeman	Norton	Scott	Wichita
Finney	Jewell	Osborne	Seward	
Ford	Kearny	Ottawa	Sheridan	
Gove	Lane	Pawnee	Sherman	

Colorado:

Baca	Kiowa	Prowers
Cheyenne	Kit Carson	Yuma

Nebraska:

Dundy	Furnas	Hitchcock	Red Willow
Franklin	Harlan	Nuckolls	Webster

Oklahoma:

Beaver	Cimarron	Texas
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To obtain an application or receive additional information, interested business owners may call the SBA toll-free at 1-800-366-6303 or TDD 817-267-4688 for the hearing impaired. The deadline for filing an application is **April 20, 2005**.

Due to the weather, many producers experienced crop losses and were not able to purchase goods and services at normal levels. Businesses that are dependent upon these producers may have experienced decreased sales, reduced gross profit margins, increased accounts receivable or difficulty in moving inventories at normal levels. The loan can help a business meet installments on long-term debt, accounts payable and overhead expenses that would have been met had the disaster not occurred. Refinancing of long-term debt, however, is not eligible under this program. The loan is designed for those businesses with substantial disaster-related needs and is intended to supplement monies the business owner can provide from other sources.

Loans may be approved for up to \$1,500,000 for actual disaster-related financial needs of the business. Interest rates are 3.061 percent and terms may extend to thirty (30) years, depending upon the repayment ability of the individual applicant. To qualify, businesses must be small by SBA's size standard. Businesses which can meet their financial needs through other sources are not eligible.

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For more information visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov/disaster.